



# Gold Coast District Golf Association

## Players, Caddies & Spectators

### Code of Conduct – Conditions of Play

This Code of Conduct forms part of the **Conditions of Play** for all Gold Coast District Golf Association (GCDGA) competitions and applies to **players, caddies, team officials, managers, supporters and spectators**.

Failure to comply with this Code may result in **penalties, sanctions, suspension or disqualification**, as determined by the GCDGA Match Committee.

### 1. Spirit of the Game – Players

All players must conduct themselves in accordance with **Rule 1.2a – Standards of Player Conduct**, which requires players to act in the spirit of the game by:

- **Acting with integrity**
  - Following the Rules
  - Applying penalties correctly
  - Being honest in all aspects of play
- **Showing consideration to others**
  - Playing at a prompt pace
  - Ensuring the safety of others
  - Avoiding behaviour that distracts or interferes with another player
- **Taking good care of the course**
  - Replacing divots
  - Repairing pitch marks
  - Raking bunkers
  - Avoiding unnecessary damage to the course

The GCDGA Committee considers any conduct contrary to these principles to be **unacceptable and not in keeping with the traditions and values of the game of golf**.

### 2. Unacceptable Behaviour

Examples of unacceptable behaviour include, but are not limited to:

- Abusive, intimidating or aggressive language or actions
- Unsporting conduct directed at players, officials or spectators
- Disrespect toward match officials or volunteers

- Deliberate distraction of an opponent
- Conduct intended to gain an unfair advantage
- Failure to comply with a direction from a GCDGA official

Where a breach of Rule 1.2 is observed, **immediate action may be taken** by the Match Committee without warning.

## 3. Caddies

Caddies must comply with **Rules 10.2 and 10.3** of the Rules of Golf.

- A caddie may provide advice and assistance **only to the player for whom they are caddying**
- A player who has completed their round on the same day may act as a caddie for another player in that competition, in accordance with Rule 10.3a/2
- Once acting as a caddie, that individual must comply fully with all caddie restrictions under the Rules of Golf

Any breach of caddie conduct rules may result in penalties being applied to the player concerned.

## 4. Spectators, Supporters & Team Officials

Spectators and supporters are encouraged to support their club in a **respectful and sportsmanlike manner**.

The following conditions apply:

- Only **players, their caddies, designated team managers and authorised GCDGA officials** are permitted within:
  - Teeing areas
  - Fairways
  - Putting greens
- Spectators and supporters:
  - Must always remain clear of play
  - Must not enter tees, fairways or putting greens
  - Must not communicate with players or caddies during a match
  - Must not provide advice or instructions
- Spectators may assist as **ball spotters only**, without offering advice
- Boisterous or disruptive behaviour that may influence play or provide an advantage to any player is **strictly prohibited**

Players are responsible for the behaviour of their caddies and associated supporters.

## 5. Social Media

The GCDGA recognises the positive role of social media in promoting golf.

However, the use of social media to:

- Bully
- Abuse
- Intimidate
- Harass
- Make offensive or defamatory comments

will not be tolerated.

Any breach may result in **disciplinary action, including suspension or exclusion from competition.**

## 6. Mobile Phones & Electronic Devices

- Mobile phones must be **switched off or set to silent** during play
- Use of mobile phones by players or caddies during a match is not permitted unless authorised by the Match Committee

Penalties:

- First breach: **General Penalty (loss of hole)**
- Subsequent breach: **Disqualification**

## 7. Enforcement

The GCDGA Match Committee reserves the right to:

- Investigate any reported or observed breach
- Impose penalties in accordance with the Rules of Golf
- Remove any individual from the course
- Suspend or disqualify players or teams where appropriate.
- All decisions of the Match Committee are final.